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JTO
Re
Interview
w/ a/tt.
8/25/95**DATE:** August 24, 1995**TO:** Examiner David M. Huntley
Art Unit: 2344 2411
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231**FAX COPY RECEIVED**

AUG 24 1995

FAX NO.: 03375 00300002 703-305-9564**GROUP 2400****FROM:** John N. Williams, Reg. No. 18,948**RE:** U.S. Serial No. 08/165,737
Filed: December 10, 1993**REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW UNDER MPEP §713.01**

Number of Pages (including this cover page): 5

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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 03375/003002
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kristoph D. Krug et al. Art Unit: 2311
Serial No.: 08/165,737 Examiner: D. Huntley
Filed : December 10, 1993
Title : DEVICE AND METHODS FOR INSPECTION OF BAGGAGE AND OTHER OBJECTS

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW UNDER GROUP 210001

Applicants' attorney respectfully asks for a telephone interview under MPEP §713.01 at a time convenient to Examiner Huntley.

Applicants' attorney believes that the interview will expedite resolution of any outstanding issue. In the last Office Action of June 30, 1995, the Examiner rejected the then pending claims over Doenges in view of Macovski, Giger and Doi, or alternatively, in view of Macovski and Alvarez. Doenges (U.S. Pat. 4,987,584) and Doi (U.S. Pat. 4,851,984) were previously discussed at the personal interview held on March 15, 1995. Macovski (U.S. Pat. 3,484,130) and Alvarez (U.S. Pat. 4,029,963) were previously considered and checked off by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 6, 1994.

For the requested telephone interview, applicants submit the enclosed claims 82 and 115 with amendments that clearly overcome the cited art. Applicants' attorney sincerely

Date of Deposit: _____

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(u) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

believes that any additional issue can be quickly and efficiently resolved during the interview.

In the claims:

82. (Amended) A method of detecting a target object of a specific material of interest in [an] a continuously moving ensemble of initially unidentified objects, comprising:

providing a stationary X-ray exposure system, a stationary X-ray detection system, and a computer operatively connected to said detection system,

moving on a conveyor said ensemble of objects through an inspection station,

progressively exposing, at said inspection station, said initially unidentified ensemble of objects to X-ray radiation by moving said ensemble continuously on said conveyor through a beam produced by said stationary X-ray exposure system,

detecting the X-ray radiation transmitted through said ensemble of objects with said stationary X-ray detection system, and providing to said computer X-ray data corresponding to the intensity of transmitted radiation,

over the area of the thus-exposed ensemble, calculating [a value] values characteristic of said target object of said specific material of interest in said ensemble of objects, and therewith identifying said target object,

systematically utilizing in said calculations X-ray transmission data of rays from said stationary X-ray exposure system passing through said ensemble of objects, including rays

passing through said target object of said specific material of interest as well as rays passing near but not through said target object to remove the contribution of overlying and underlying material from the calculated value characteristic of said target object of said specific material of interest, and

automatically indicating the presence of said target object while said ensemble of objects progresses on said conveyor.

115. (Amended) A device for detecting a target object of a specific material of interest in [an] a continuously moving ensemble of initially unidentified objects, [for use with] a conveyor arranged to move said ensemble of objects continuously through an inspection station [comprising]:

a stationary X-ray exposure system [,] and a stationary X-ray detection system both constructed to operate cooperatively with said conveyor, and a computer operatively connected to said detection system,

said stationary X-ray exposure system constructed and positioned to progressively expose, at said inspection station, said ensemble of initially unidentified objects to X-ray radiation by movement of said ensemble continuously on said conveyor through a beam produced by said X-ray-exposure system,

said stationary X-ray detection system positioned to detect X-ray radiation transmitted through said ensemble of objects, and constructed to provide to said computer X-ray data corresponding to the intensity of transmitted radiation,

said computer programmed to calculate over the area of the thus-exposed ensemble, values [a value] characteristic of said target object of said specific material of interest in said ensemble of objects, and therewith identifying said target object,


said computer programmed to systematically utilize in said calculations X-ray transmission data of rays from said stationary X-ray exposure system passing through said ensemble of objects, including rays passing through said target object of said specific material of interest as well as rays passing near but not through said target object to remove the contribution of overlying and underlying material from the calculated value characteristic of said target object of said specific material, and

said computer programmed to indicate the presence of said target object.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

August 23, 1995


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